

REMARKS

1. Election/Restriction

Applicants, through their attorneys, traverse the restriction requirement set forth by the Examiner in the Office Action. In the event that applicants' arguments are not accepted, applicants hereby provisionally elect, with traverse, species II, corresponding to Figs. 7-9 of the application. Note that Fig. 6 corresponds to species I, not species II.

Applicants respectfully submit that species II differs from species I only slightly in scope because Figs. 7-9 (species II) show a plurality of backlight lamps, while Figs. 2-3 (species I) show the backlight arrangement generally.

Species II encompasses claims 1-46, while species I also encompasses all of the claims except for dependent claims 11-13, 22-25 and 44-46 directed to the plurality of backlight lamps. Applicants submit that claims 1-46 (Figs. 7-9) correspond to species II and that independent claims 1, 14, 19 and 31 are generic for the following reasons:

Dependent claims 11-13, 22-25 and 44-46 directed to the plurality of backlight lamps are specific to species II. The embodiment corresponding to species II (as well as species I), includes a picture quality improving unit that extracts a brightness component for at least one liquid crystal cell and analyzes the brightness of first data to generate second data having extended contrast characteristics, a timing controller, backlight and an inverter that drives the backlight. Also included is a brightness/color dividing unit, a histogram analyzer, a histogram modulation unit and a brightness/color mixing unit. Both species include these basic components.

Each of the independent claims recites a portion of the components mentioned above with respect to species II as follows: 1) independent claim 1 recites a brightness component for at least one liquid crystal cell, analysis of the brightness of first data to generate second data having extended contrast characteristics, a timing controller, backlight and an inverter that drives the backlight; 2) independent claim 14 recites a histogram for analyzing brightness information and subsequent generation of second data; 3) independent claim 19 recites a brightness component with associated processing, a histogram and associated second data processing and a color-difference component and processing relating to the second data; 4) independent claim 31 recites a brightness component and associate processing, second data processing and processing for producing a higher contrast image.

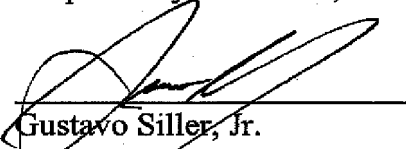
Accordingly, applicant submits that independent claims 1, 14, 19 and 31 are generic. Further, a search directed to species II will include art suitable for examining independent claims 1, 14, 19 and 31 and claims depending therefrom.

2. Closing Remarks

Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

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Respectfully submitted,



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